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Mr. E. B. ...

TO : The Acting Secretary

DATE: July 16, 1959

THROUGH: A/S

FROM : EUR - Mr. Kohler

SUBJECT: Appointment with Delegation from the Assembly of Captive European Nations (ACEN).

Background

The Congress has passed a Joint Resolution (S. J. 111) authorizing and requesting the President to designate the third week of July as "Captive Nations Week" in order to focus public attention on the plight of the peoples of the Soviet-dominated nations at the time of the resumption of the Geneva Conference of Foreign Ministers (Tab A). The Department supported the resolution in principle and drafted a proclamation for the President's approval (Tab B). On July 17, the President proclaimed the third week in July as "Captive Nations Week."

In this connection, it has been suggested that a three-man delegation from the Assembly of Captive European Nations (ACEN) make a brief courtesy call on you on the occasion of "Captive Nations Week", Tuesday, July 21. This delegation would consist of Mr. Stefan Fortenski, Polish Chairman of the ACEN; Dr. Vilis Paasoni, Latvian former Chairman of the ACEN; and either Ambassador Bela Varga, Chairman of the Hungarian National Committee, or Mr. Jozsef Kovacs, Vice Chairman of the ACEN and Mayor of Budapest during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. Mr. Spier of IS would accompany the group.

If your schedule permits, it is recommended that you receive the ACEN delegation for the following reasons:

- 1) This would offer an appropriate occasion to reaffirm United States support for the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe in their aspirations for freedom and independence.
- 2) There has been considerable disappointment in Eastern European emigre circles at the failure of the Western Powers to include the question of Eastern Europe in the agenda of the current Foreign Ministers meeting in Geneva. As these emigres have pointed out, the Soviets have sought to persuade the peoples of Eastern Europe that Western silence on this point

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means that the West, and the United States in particular, has abandoned its efforts on behalf of their freedom and independence. Your meeting with the ACEN delegation would tend to maintain the morale of the emigres and help to refute these Soviet claims.

Recommendations

It is recommended that, if your schedule permits, you receive the delegation from the Assembly of Captive European Nations on July at your convenience.

Approved _____
Time _____
Disapproved _____

Comments

1 - Mr. Bretzman

Attachments:

1. Text of U. S. Resolutions 111 (Tab A).
2. Text of Draft Presidential Proclamation (Tab B).

ADMINISTRATIVE

EXHIBIT

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Missing attachment Tab A + B

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